

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

THE MOST PERFINED STAMP ISSUE IN THE WORLD Bulletin 266 Pg.8.

TERRY PUSTERLA writes that for a number of years he has been making a general study of the KEVII One Penny which includes a perfin section. He found Roy Gault's response article to Joseph Laura's 2,060 patterns found on the 24 red Washington Head most interesting.

The article prompted him to tote up, for the first time, those of his own collection of Edward Pennies, and he found he had 2,603 patterns. This surpassed Laura's figure and was almost half of Roy's predicted figure for the one penny. Terry says he now knows what is in front of him if he wishes to get a complete collection of the one value. Read on Terry!

Harry Skinner brought to my notice Chapter 22, Pg.193 of Jennings' History of British Security Stamps published in 1968 by The Perfin Society. I quote the first two paragraphs:-

"One stamp, more than any other, affords a tremendous scope for specialisation because of its long period of currency. This is the One Penny Lilac of 1881 which, during its 21 years of use, and because of its face value being that of the stamp greatest in demand, was employed by almost every firm then in existence which used punctured stamps.

More than 7,000 different dies are known to have been used on this stamp and the collector who wishes to confine his studies to this one issue alone will find much of interest since it covers the period of railway companies, canal companies, now defunct banks and insurance concerns as well as many private firms now non-existent or absorbed into other larger concerns."

Harry's count of KEVII 1d Reds came to 4,639 different dies. This was from his own collection plus delving into Paul Redmond's material which Harry still holds for auction. This figure only represents actual copies; there are dozens of instances where he has sets of perfins with many other values, but if the 1d was missing he did not include that die in the total. However, he says it would be a racing certainty that the 1d would have been used as well.

In excess of 2,500 different perfins have been used on all our inland letter rate stamps from QV 1d lilac to KGVI is Harry's opinion.

It is obvious from these early comments on Roy's article that the numbers mentioned by both Joseph Laura and Roy could be very much on the low side. Two stamps at least have surpassed the number of dies estimated on the 2c red Washington Head.

Slightly off the point, but as a result of reading Roy's article, DAVE HILL makes the following observations.

Regarding Official Government Policy to perfined stamps:-

Dr Jurgen Settgast tells him that Germany outlawed perfins in 1966. To perfine stamps in some countries required a licence either for the firm doing the perforating or for the pattern. The United States always impresses him with its rules on commercial correspondence bearing "if undelivered in ... days return to . . ."

Great Britain insisted on none of these and perhaps has the most perfins, 21,500 different dies, of which we know the identity of 6,500 users. Around 100 perfins remain in commercial use in the U.K. and he can see a time when members' private perfins may outnumber those in commercial use.

A "league table" of these kind of figures may prove of interest and if members who know the figures for other countries will send him the details he will record them in a future article.

I, (Ed) would find it very interesting to see a list of all the users of perfins in the U.K. today. If Dave's figure of 100 is correct it should be possible for someone to produce one.